

Third Annual Housing Specialist Training Institute

Workshops

June 14

9:15 a.m. -10:00 a.m. Yosemite Room

Keynote – Plenary Session

Jonathan Hunter, Managing Director of the Western Region for the Corporation for Supportive Housing

10:15 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Cabrillo Room

Role, Duties & Responsibilities of the Housing Specialist; How to Document Housing Services.

This workshop will provide an overview of the role, duties, and responsibilities of a Housing Specialist. Presenters include those working as housing specialists who will discuss their day to day experiences working with consumers on housing issues and their role on the mental health team. In addition, guidelines will be presented on how to properly document the provision of housing services.

Presenters: Maria Funk, Ph.D., Norma Fritsche; Faye Williams; Curley Holden

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Mojave Room

Meeting the Medical Needs of Individuals with a Mental Illness with a Focus on the Homeless Population. This workshop will

be conducted by community health clinic representatives with expertise in working with the homeless population. They will discuss and explore the importance of assisting individuals that are homeless and have a mental illness with establishing a medical home. They will also discuss, common medical issues affecting the homeless population and how to navigate various systems to address their medical needs.

Presenters: Paul Gore, Ph.D., Elda Lazaro, Leda Grembowski

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Yosemite Room

Tenant Rights and Reasonable Accommodations. This workshop will provide an overview of laws pertaining to tenant reasonable accommodation and modification requests. It will include discussions of reasonable accommodation during the tenant selection process, requests for modification of a project or unit, and requests for waiver of a project's rules. The workshop will provide time for questions and answers and will encourage the audience to share their experiences related to reasonable accommodation/modification

requests and how those requests were addressed.

Presenter: Sharon Rapport

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Cabrillo Room

Overcoming Barriers to Housing

– Phase I This workshop will address barriers that impede consumers from securing permanent housing opportunities and will explore options to overcome these barriers. Barriers that will be discussed include prior evictions, poor credit history, criminal background, substance abuse, limited income, and insufficient life skills.

Presenter: Carmen Hill

1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. Mojave Room

Meeting the Housing Needs of Consumers Leaving Jail.

This workshop will provide an overview of the needs of the jail re-entry population and the barriers that impact their ability to secure a place to live. It will include recommendations to address the barriers, ways to effectively work with the criminal justice system, i.e. probation, parole, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Community Transition Unit and the courts. The workshop will identify specific

Third Annual Housing Specialist Training Institute Workshops

resources available for the jail re-entry population.

Presenter: Bert Paras

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Yosemite Room

Preventing Evictions Through Effective Case Management in Supportive Housing. In this workshop, participants will explore the theory and practice of case management, with an emphasis on harm reduction strategies. The session will focus on ways harm reduction can be successfully implemented in permanent supportive housing to provide for the needs of tenants who are the “hardest to house . . . or keep housed!” The goal is to help the participants expand their toolbox to effectively assist consumers to retain their housing.

Presenter: Mollie Lowery

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Cabrillo Room

Overcoming the Barriers to Housing – Phase II. The goal of this training is to educate participants on how to complete a housing application in order to have it approved by an owner. The workshop will also include mock interviews that demonstrate how to address the property owner's tough questions. A panel of property owners will openly discuss circumstances and/or situations that encourage and discourage renting to individuals with multiple barriers.

Presenter: Carmen Hill

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mojave Room

Utilizing Client Supportive Services (CSS) Funds to Meet the Needs of Clients in Full Service Partnership Programs. This workshop will present approaches to providing for the immediate, temporary, and permanent housing needs of FSP consumers. The participants will be presented with suggestions and examples of how to identify and

negotiate short-term, intermediate and permanent housing options utilizing CSS funding.

Presenters: Reina Turner, Bonnie Roth, L.C.S.W.

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Yosemite Room

Who Deserves to be Housed – Housing First. This workshop will explore the housing first model. The workshop will examine the model's origins and current uses. Challenges and benefits to utilizing a housing first model will be examined. Participants will also receive an overview of and techniques frequently employed in the housing first model.

Presenter: Gabriele Hooks

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Yosemite Room

Client Panel – How Housing was the Catalyst for Change in My Life -- Sharing My Recovery Story. Through a “Dr. Phil” like forum, six individuals of various ages, ethnicities, and life-experiences will share their stories of recovery and the importance of hope and resiliency in making their respective journeys from homelessness to housing. This session will help inform housing specialists and case managers about what they found to be most helpful to successfully secure housing and where past efforts may have failed. This session will also focus on how securing housing enabled the individuals to be able to develop other positive outcomes including reuniting with families and friends, taking charge of their personal health and pursuing vocational and professional goals. Finally, this session is meant to be a “shot in the arm” and a reconfirmation of

the value of this work even in the toughest of times.

Moderator: Ruth Schwartz

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Cabrillo Room

Working with Clients in Different Age Groups. As a housing specialist, you may be called upon to assist individuals across the four age groups with their housing needs. This workshop will provide unique insights into working with families with children, transition age youth and older adult populations. The three presenters will share their experience and expertise gained from working exclusively with these populations.

Presenters: Anthony Driver, Tia Owens, Michele Shepherd, M.F.T., Mary Jane Ufland, Emily James, L.C.S.W.

10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Mojave Room

DMH Housing Resources Accessed through Countywide Housing, Employment and Education Resource Development. This workshop will highlight temporary and permanent housing resources provided by the Department of Mental Health through its Countywide Employment & Education Resource Development Division and will provide information on how to access those resources.

Presenters: Kathleen McQuade, M.N., R.N., Lise Ruiz, L.C.S.W., Patricia Nwaekeke

10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Yosemite Room

How to Successfully Access Affordable Housing Resources – Tax Credit and Affordable Housing Developments. This workshop will include a panel composed of an affordable housing developer and a property management company discussing the availability of affordable housing stock throughout Los Angeles County and how to

Third Annual Housing Specialist Training Institute Workshops

successfully access this resource. Mercy Housing, an affordable housing developer will focus on the availability of affordable housing and how these units are made affordable including the targeted populations and eligibility criteria. The John Stewart Company, an experienced property management company working with both low-income and special needs populations, will discuss the application process for these units and how it may differ from accessing special needs housing. The goal of the workshop is to provide information that will increase the likelihood of DMH consumers gaining access to this valuable resource.
Presenters: Benjamin Phillips, Lori Horn

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Cabrillo Room

DPSS and DCFS Resources for Homeless Consumers. This workshop will introduce participants to different short term, transitional and long term housing resources provided by the Department of Public Social Service (DPSS) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) who work in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health to serve homeless individuals and families in need.

Presenters: Deon Arline, Gale Parker-Tate, Phyllis Wilcher

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mojave Room

Project 50: A Successful Model of Serving Chronically Homeless and Vulnerable Individuals. Project 50 is a demonstration program to identify, engage, house and provide integrated supportive services to

the 50 most vulnerable, long-term chronically homeless adults living on the streets of Skid Row. Project 50 involves 3 phases: 1) Registry Creation 2) Outreach Team and 3) Integrated Supportive Services Team. Currently, Project 50 is operating in the third phase of the demonstration program.

Presenters: Mary Marx, L.C.S.W., Flora Gil Krisloff, Mike Alvidrez, Paul Gregerson, Ruth Ann Markenson

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Yosemite Room

Working with Individuals Who Are Actively Using Substances.

In this workshop, the presenter will focus on what it takes to implement harm reduction strategies. The workshop will take an in-depth look at the human brain and how any type of drug affects it and will discuss the importance of “knowing your dope- the good and bad of it- prescribed or not.” Utilizing harm reduction requires big, full tool boxes and lots of creativity, patience, and letting go of our mythical concept that we can control human behavior. This workshop will examine human behavior which is the target of harm reduction interventions. **Presenter: Mollie Lowery**

3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Cabrillo Room

Finding Affordable Housing.

This workshop will provide several resources to assist with searching for rental housing. Participants will be presented with a live demonstration of how to utilize the web-based housing search tool - <http://housing.lacounty.gov/> to identify rental units. Participants will explore sources of affordable housing options including shared

housing, HUD subsidized apartments (project-based Section 8), tax credit projects, and "Mom and Pop" landlords. A panel of property owners will openly discuss how to develop and maintain relationships with landlords and will share their perspectives based on their experiences about renting to DMH consumers.

Presenters: Carmen Hill, Larry Newnam

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mojave Room

Aging in Place: Best Practices and Lessons Learned.

Homeless adults between ages 50 and 62 often have healthcare needs similar to those of people who are 10 to 20 years older and are not homeless. Given the multiple, high risk physical and behavioral health conditions experienced by the older homeless population, the provision of permanent, affordable housing linked to a comprehensive array of supportive services is essential.

Presenters: Theion Perkins, Cheryl Castillo

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Yosemite Room

The Value of Employment and Education and the Connection to Housing and Recovery

This “Employment 101” presentation will cover employment and education models, approaches, and evidence-based practices. The value of work and education and its connection to housing and recovery will be examined. Employment, education and volunteer resources will be provided. **Presenter: Kecia Coker**

Plenary Session Presenters:

Keynote —**Jonathan Hunter** is Managing Director of the Western Region for the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). Mr. Hunter joined the staff of CSH in November 2000. CSH is a national non-profit and Community Development Finance Institution that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. Mr. Hunter coordinates the work of CSH staff who are deployed from offices in Austin, Texas, Phoenix, Arizona, Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego. He also coordinates technical assistance and support to communities throughout the western states region. CSH provides direct assistance and predevelopment lending to project sponsors, conducts training to build the capacity of organizations to develop supportive housing and works to create integrated public systems to better finance and support the development of supportive housing.

Prior to joining CSH, Mr. Hunter was employed by Episcopal Community Services (ECS) in San Diego for thirteen years. During ten years as Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, he carried primary responsibility for strategic planning, program development and operations and quality assurance. ECS employed more than 400 people delivering services in three southern California counties through programs including Housing (Transitional and Permanent), Alcohol and Drug Services, Mental Health Services, Women's Services, Emergency Services, Child Development, Primary Health Care, Employment and Welfare to Work, Youth Services and Chaplaincy. Mr. Hunter developed the agency's first housing projects that provided both transitional and permanent housing solutions for homeless people with a severe mental

illness. Programs designed by Mr. Hunter were recognized at both the state and national level for innovation in responding to the needs of homeless adults and families.

Plenary Session Moderator -

Ruth Schwartz is the founder and Executive Director of Shelter Partnership, a non-profit private/public partnership which provides technical, developmental, material and public policy support for Los Angeles' housing system for the homeless as a means to end homelessness in the region. Over the past 24 years, Shelter Partnership has assisted in the creation of both transitional and permanent, affordable housing with social support services for homeless individuals and families. Shelter Partnership has been instrumental in securing permanent housing for over 7,000 homeless individuals and families at rents that they can afford. Shelter Partnership also performs critical studies on homelessness and the housing delivery system. These include the needs of domestic violence victims, single women, emancipated foster youth, persons with a dual-diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse and a major study on housing needs of homeless and low income persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Through the S. Mark Taper Foundation Shelter Resource Bank project, Shelter Partnership has distributed more than \$160 million in new excess inventory to approximately 350 shelters, housing developments and social service agencies. These entities have received blankets, household wares including beds, kitchen utensils, clean supplies, and toiletries.

Workshop Presenters:

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Third Annual Housing Specialist Training Institute Workshops

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Third Annual Housing Specialist Training Institute Workshops

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Special Thanks

Corporation for Supportive Housing